

Disaster Alert System Set Up

DES MOINES (UPI) — A 24-hour disaster alert system for the entire state of Iowa will be completely operational by early June, the legislative interim committee was told Wednesday.

H. J. Bocella, communications and warning officer of the Iowa Civil Defense office, said four of the five men who will be needed to man the system on a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week basis have been hired. He said a fifth will be hired in the next few days and that the four who have been hired are undergoing training.

Second Stage

Bocella said after the system is operational "29 or 30" points will exist throughout the state to serve as the second stage in the warning system. He said each point will be responsible for notifying one or more counties by radio or phone of an impending disaster, such as a tornado, after being notified by

state headquarters that a disaster is possible.

The sheriff's office in each county will be responsible for relaying information to residents of his county.

Bocella said there still are many difficulties at the local level of the system.

"For instance," he said, "many towns have no warning device to tell their residents a tornado or other disaster is imminent."

Charles City, which was devastated by a tornado last week, had no warning device. Mayor Harry Brenton said after the storm the only siren in town is the fire siren and if that had gone off "it would only have meant a fire."

Bocella said that warning citizens a tornado is imminent is made more difficult by the speed with which tornadoes form and strike and the difficulty of identifying one by radar.

Visual Sightings

"The Des Moines radar, which covers the entire state, is a good piece of machinery, but it isn't fine enough to detect a tornado out in the state," he said. "The most it can do is detect a storm system which could produce a tornado."

Bocella said the issuance of tornado warnings, which mean a tornado actually exists, is dependent on visual sightings. He said the department is considering a program that would, if a tornado watch were issued for a part of the state, mobilize people to watch for a tornado and report any sighted immediately.

New Big Job In Oelwein: "Thank You"

OELWEIN (AP) — Oelwein Mayor Sam Mazziozzi said Wednesday he has another problem, now that the cleanup of debris in his tornado-ravaged city is nearly complete and people are beginning to rebuild.

"How do you thank all these people?" asked Mazziozzi. "So many of them came in to help, and it's going to be an awful problem to say 'thank you' properly."

It was just a week ago Wednesday that twin tornadoes created awesome wreckage in Oelwein and Charles City, 50 miles to the northwest.

The tornadoes claimed 17 lives, injured hundreds and caused property damage estimated at more than \$38 million.

Wonderful Progress

Mazziozzi said the cleanup has "progressed wonderfully" and the rattle of lumber being unloaded from trucks as people started to rebuild was replacing the whine of chain saws and the roar of heavy construction machinery used in cleanup operations.

"You see a lot of lumber trucks coming in, piling lumber on different properties," the mayor said. "These people are all set to rebuild."

Oelwein officials said they hoped to end cleanup work Saturday. All residents are to have debris on the curb that day and it will be picked up.

Meetings on Aid

Business men met with officials of a number of federal and state agencies Wednesday to hear explanations of aid the various offices can supply once Oelwein is officially declared a disaster area, a declaration of officials said they hope will be forthcoming within a few days.

"The morale of our people has been wonderful," said Mayor Mazziozzi, "and our cleanup has gone faster than anyone could expect, thanks to all those people who came in to help."

"How do we thank all these people?"

Two More Iowans Killed in Vietnam

By Associated Press

An Iowan and a former Iowan have been killed in combat in Vietnam, the Defense Department reports.

They were identified as Navy Corpsman Leroy Poppema, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Poppema, sr., of Hospers, and Marine Lance Cpl. Philip G. Wigton, 22, of Omaha and formerly of Sioux City.

Wigton was killed May 9 while on patrol near Quang Tri. Poppema was killed Thursday, but other details of his death were not available.



—Gazette photo by Art Housh

Footbridge in Fontana Park

This photo shows the new footbridge in Fontana park, south of Hazelton off highway 150. The park and lake are operated by the Buchanan county conservation commission. The park offers picnicking and fishing for summer visitors.

Aurora Girl Seriously Hurt in Auto Crash

WALKER — Charlotte Derflinger, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Derflinger of rural Aurora, was listed in poor condition in St. Luke's hospital, Cedar Rapids, Thursday with injuries suffered in a two-car crash here Wednesday evening.

Miss Derflinger was riding in a car driven by Bruce Behrens, 17, of Arlington when it was involved in a collision with a car driven by Frances Marie Van Gorder, 38, of Independence.

Mrs. Van Gorder was not hurt. Behrens was listed in fair condition at St. Luke's hospital with neck injuries. Miss Derflinger suffered a broken leg and internal injuries.

Stanley Urges Home Ownership Project

IOWA CITY — State Senator David Stanley of Muscatine, candidate for the Republican nomination for U.S. senator, proposed Thursday "a fresh new approach to the problems of slum housing and urban rot. We must emphasize home ownership instead of rental, and local leadership instead of federal control."

Senator Stanley spoke at a

coffee in the home of Mrs. Kenneth Spranger of Iowa City and at a coffee in the home of Col. and Mrs. M. N. Mikulac of Iowa City.

Senator Stanley said "We should help slum dwellers to become homeowners, so they will take care of their property and stop the decay of our cities."

"This home ownership plan means that local nonprofit citizen organizations will buy slum homes, hire local contractors to fix them into decent

homes, and sell the houses or apartment units to families of limited means, with long-term, low-interest loans," Senator Stanley said.

"This plan will make it possible for many slum families to buy a home for a lower monthly amount than they are now paying as rent for a filthy overpriced tenement," Senator Stanley said. "Pilot projects in several cities prove that it works."

Dubuque School Buses Remain Idle in Dispute

DUBUQUE (AP) — More than 2,700 school children in Dubuque county were without bus transportation again Thursday because of a wage dispute between school bus drivers and the county school district.

The 40 drivers, who failed to report for work Wednesday morning, were offered \$2.88 an hour next year — a 38-cent-an-hour increase — by the Dubuque school board late Wednesday.

But members of the United School Bus Operations Assn. local said later they would not accept less than \$3.20 an hour.

Officials indicated the drivers would remain off their jobs for the remaining 10 school days this year unless their request is met by the board.

The work stoppage Wednesday morning occurred as drivers called in "sick", and the school board was notified of the "disability" by Jack Lepsch, secretary-treasurer of the USBOA local.

School officials said even without the buses, 84.72 percent of the children who normally ride the buses got to school. They said many parents formed "car pools" and drove their children to classes.

Hurt in Crash

MASONVILLE — Jerry Stickley, 20, of Masonville, was listed in fair condition at the Manchester hospital Thursday with injuries suffered in an auto accident Wednesday night near Ryan.

East Iowans Named To Committee Posts

IOWA CITY — The University of Iowa student senate has named students to various committee posts including the following East Iowans:

Cedar Rapids — John James, activities board; Dyersville — Kenneth Wessels, committee of student life; Independence — Robert Pattee, traffic court; Iowa City — Stephen Darling, traffic court.

Riverside — Garold Lane, committee on student conduct; Strawberry Point — Maureen Kirby, committee on student life.

Two Eastern Iowans Named to Honorary

CEDAR FALLS — Fifteen University of Northern Iowa students were elected to membership in Pi Omega Pi, national honorary business education society, during the last academic year.

Fall initiates included Carolyn Gaster of Cedar Rapids. Members elected this spring include Larry Raymon of Belle Plaine.

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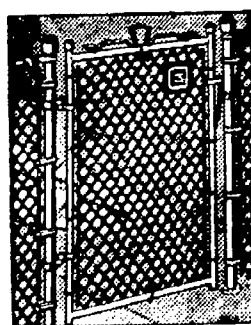
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